

1 **Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **March 15, 2023**
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5
6 **Commissioners Present:** Amanda Becker, Etienne Djevi, Richard James, Kathryn
7 Macomber, Laura Palmquist and Adepeju Solarin (Peju).
8

9 **Youth Commissioners:** None.

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11 **Commissioners Absent:** Keith Allen, and David Sindiga (excused)
12

13 **Staff Present:** Thomas Brooks, Equity and Inclusion Manager
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15 **Call to Order/Roll Call**
16

17 The Human Rights, Inclusion, and Engagement Commission (HRIEC) meeting was called to
18 order at 6:30 p.m.
19

20 **Approve Agenda**
21

22 Commissioner Macomber moved and Commissioner Becker seconded a motion to approve the
23 Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
24

25 **Commissioner Djevi Address to the Commission**

26 Commissioner Djevi indicated this is his last meeting on the HRIEC and he reflected on the past
27 six years while on the Commission and the accomplishments that have been made during that
28 time. He wanted to thank the City Council for appointing him in 2017 and a great experience. He
29 also thanked City Staff for helping to create change over the years and was grateful to staff for
30 being inclusive. He also thanked the Commissioners, current and past for all the work that has
31 been done.
32

33 Chair Palmquist thanked Commissioner Djevi for all the work he has done on the Commission
34 over the years.
35

36 Commissioner James thought Commissioner Djevi was a major force of all of the changes that
37 the HRIEC has done and how it functions. He thought the HRIEC is now more of an action
38 group instead of a discussion group thanks to Commissioner Djevi's leadership. He thanked
39 Commissioner Djevi for that.
40

41 Commissioner Becker thanked Commissioner Djevi for his energy and positivity while being on
42 the Commission and for all he has brought to the Commission.
43

44 Commissioner Macomber concurred.
45

46 **Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda**

47

48 **Commission Response to Community Issues**

49 Chair Palmquist indicated the Commission did receive an email regarding Genocide and
50 Holocaust Remembrance which Mr. Brooks responded to. He invited Cynthia to come to the
51 meeting and talk about the history. She noted this has been responded to and hoped to continue
52 the conversation about that topic.

53

54 Commissioner James thought this kind of communication to them is the most difficult to deal
55 with because it is not an issue that the City says does not matter and not somebody just
56 complaining. It is someone saying that this affects them and their family and people they know
57 and the Commission does not want to ignore it but at the same time the Commission only has so
58 much time and so many plans and commitments that the Commission is doing. He always found
59 that hard to deal with and he thought that Mr. Brooks response was a really good one because it
60 gave the individual an opportunity to do something if she chooses to and it also leaves it open to
61 help the Commission to become more aware and more attuned to what Cynthia's concerns are.

62

63 Chair Palmquist asked Mr. Brooks if there was anyone online who wanted to talk.

64

65 Mr. Brooks indicated there are no participants online.

66

67 **Approve Minutes**

68

69 **a. February 15, 2023 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**

70

71 Chair Palmquist noted Commissioner Macomber sent in some edits to staff previous to the
72 meeting.

73

74 Commissioner Adepeju Solarin (Peju) arrived at 6:48 p.m.

75

76 Commissioner Peju moved and Commissioner James seconded a motion to approve the February
77 15 ,2023 Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission meeting minutes as presented.
78 Motion passed unanimously.

79

80 **Commissioner Outreach and Engagement**

81 Mr. Brooks noted this is an item the Commission asked to be included in the meeting for
82 Commissioners to talk about events and meetings that were attended by them.

83

84 Commissioner Becker indicated Earth Day is coming up and there is some cleanup at the Nature
85 Center that the City is planning on doing. She hoped to be able to go to this and do some
86 community engagement. She thought this might be a good engagement opportunity. She
87 noticed also that in the Today Roseville School news that the Roseville Principal is Principal of
88 the Year. She thought it might be a nice idea to reach out to that person to see about doing an
89 interview.

90

91 Mr. Brooks believed this is already slated with Corey Yonke for an interview with the principal.

92

93 Commissioner Macomber noted that tomorrow, March 16, 2023, as a part of the League of
94 Women Voters, she will be at Rabata, a Muslim women’s leadership center in the strip mall by
95 Walgreens on Lexington.

96

97 **New Business**

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99 **a. 2022-2023 HRIEC Work Plan Review**

100 Chair Palmquist provided a recap of the work plan for 2022-2023.

101

102 Commissioner James indicated at his Commission interview he brought up the Essay
103 Contest to the City Council and explained the situation to them with a possible
104 recommendation of this work plan. He thought if this is not going to work the
105 Commission needs to think about what to put in its place. He thought the Commission
106 should ask the school for a meeting with the teachers who would be interested in
107 meeting and also try to meet with students to discuss what things would work for
108 them.

109

110 Commissioner Peju loved that idea and she thanked Commissioner James for all of
111 his thoughts and work on this.

112

113 Commissioner Becker updated the Commission on Rosefest Parade. She indicated
114 she reached out to all of the Commissions and got four responses from
115 Commissioners who want to participate in the parade. She thought if there were two
116 spots in the parade, it would be room for fifty people so the Commission might want
117 to think about inviting two groups to walk. She indicated she had a couple of
118 suggestions but has not reached out to anyone yet. She indicated there is a Seeds of
119 Hope Community Garden group and is a cool organization which makes people think
120 about Spring and Summer and is kind of a nice thing. She thought this organization
121 uses particular seeds that are passed down through special groups and there are a lot
122 of immigrants and refugees that are a part of the gardening group. She thought that
123 would be a nice opportunity to get a diverse group of people in the parade and
124 showcase something that is important to everyone, food. She also suggested the
125 Karen Organization, which is down the street from her. She thought this would be a
126 good group as well.

127

128 Commissioner James thought the Karen Organization would be a good one to include
129 to help people understand that the group is in the community and what the
130 organization is about.

131

132 Commissioner Peju also thought the Rabata group might be a good one as well and
133 suggested Commissioner Macomber might want to bring this up to them.

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135 Commissioner Macomber indicated she will be happy to ask them but was not sure
136 what that group was about yet.

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Commissioner James updated the Commission on the progress of proclamations.

Chair Palmquist indicated she has had continuous discussions with the schools and has been reigniting conversations with students she already knows. She updated the Commission on Youth Engagement progress.

Commissioner James indicated he would like to have an outlined procedure for youth engagement indicating who is doing what on the Commission that way everyone knows how to proceed and who to contact on what procedure to take. He thought that is a way to spread out the responsibilities.

Commissioner Peju thought the Commission is doing concrete things now and the reality is youth are different now in general and there cannot be one monolithic way of looking at the youth. She thought even today, right now, to keep everything connected.

Commissioner James thought the Commission is doing a great job and he wanted to reinforce the idea that this should be a major focus and consistency is important.

Commissioner Becker thought this should be added to the agenda each month to remind the Commission on what is currently being done and what is to be done regarding youth engagement.

Mr. Brooks wanted to add to the Youth Engagement item, he agreed with Commissioner Peju that the Commission cannot have just one way of engaging youth and it is the same with all populations. He thought the Commission is really being pushed to think outside of the box with youth and the City is thinking about new ways to engage youth that are more meaningful to them. He noted he will keep the Commission up to date on that as staff has more concrete ideas and details. He indicated he does have some ideas floating around.

b. Discussion – Affirm, Celebrate, Amplify

Chair Palmquist explained this item is for discussion to find out what that means for the Commission.

Commissioner Becker thought this was brought up because there was an opportunity at an event to talk about the Commission a little bit and truly the student did not know about the Commission. She indicated she liked the word amplify because it is a big part of the outreach and engagement of the Commission. She thought the words all fit into the celebratory mode and are uplifting.

Commissioner Peju explained the beautiful thing is that this is not new to the them and is something that they are all familiar with as a Commission. This was based off the laundromat chat and identity document Commissioner Becker was working on.

182 She indicated this takes time and she shares these things with the community. The
183 words capture the Commission and what is actually being done on the Commission.

184
185 Commissioner Macomber thought it is a way to organize the Commission’s activities
186 or intent or goals.

187
188 Chair Palmquist liked that it works in the celebratory as well as in the hard. She used
189 the email as an example of how these words are being used in the response to the
190 resident.

191
192 Commissioner Becker concurred and thought the affirmation showed a lot of
193 compassion and the highest standard. She thought the baseline standard should
194 always be, as a Commission, showing compassion for people who may have a hard
195 time composing an email like that. She thought that it may not always feel uplifting
196 but it is the compassion arena in that uplifting space.

197
198 Commissioner James thought the whole idea of affirming this is that it is a legitimate
199 feeling and legitimate concern and the Commission may not be able to do a whole lot
200 about it at the moment but it is thanking the person for bringing the issue forward.

201
202 Chair Palmquist thought the words are an easy way to describe why the Commission
203 is here.

204
205 Commissioner James indicated he liked this because there is a need for a hook when
206 talking to people at events and when out and about. These are action words.

207
208 Commissioner Becker thought this is good timing for this and a good place to be and
209 will help with the engagement, which the Commission needs to focus on and having
210 some action words that the community can understand. That gives her something to
211 use when going to different organizations.

212
213 Commissioner James thought it also helps the Commission bring consistency to each
214 individuals interactions with other people.

215
216 **Other New Business or Reports**

217 **a. Staff Report**

218 Equity and Inclusion Manager Brooks reported on the following:

- 219 • SREAP Update
- 220 • Commission Recruitment – Adult & Youth
- 221 • Proclamation Display Case Support
- 222 • Juneteenth
- 223 • April Meeting

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225 **Announcements**

226 Chair Palmquist explained the Commission interviews have been pushed back. She noted
227 Commissioner James was reappointed and Commissioner Sindiga was not reappointed. She
228 indicated more people need to apply for the Commission.
229

230 **Future Agenda Items**

- 231 a. 2023-2024 Work Plan
 - 232 b. Summarize the Buddy Plan
 - 233 c. Youth Commission recruitment
 - 234 d. April – Commission elections
- 235

236 **Adjournment**

237
238 Chair Palmquist adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

239
240 Respectfully submitted,

241
242 Sue Osbeck

243 *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*